



**MONTANA STATE HOSPITAL  
MENTAL HEALTH GROUP HOME  
POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

**CONTINUUM OF CARE FOR  
MONTANA STATE HOSPITAL MENTAL HEALTH GROUP HOME RESIDENTS**

**Effective Date:** December 17, 2015

**Policy #:** MSH MHGH-01

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**I. PURPOSE:** To define the continuum of care and movement of patients between levels of care at Montana State Hospital (MSH). Licensed Independent Practitioners (LIPs), in consultation with their treatment teams, other treatment teams on the campus of the hospital, and the associated program managers, will identify and order the patient to be served in the most appropriate, least restrictive, treatment/rehabilitative setting available.

**II. POLICY:** LIPs will secure the most appropriate care setting for each patient during the patient's care and treatment by ordering, as appropriate, the available care environments in the manner described in this policy.

**III. DEFINITIONS:**

A. Continuum of Care: Levels of care offered at MSH (Mental Health Group Home beds and Hospital Treatment Unit beds).

B. Montana State Hospital Mental Health Group Home (MSH MHGH): The MSH MHGHs licensed under the Mental Health Center Group Home Standards.

C. Hospital: The treatment units in the main hospital at MSH, including A-Unit, B-Unit, D-Unit, E-Unit, Spratt Unit, and the Forensic Mental Health Facility.

**IV. RESPONSIBILITIES:**

A. LIPs will identify the appropriate placement in the continuum of care at MSH.

B. Program managers will maintain each care environment in a manner consistent with its role.

**V. PROCEDURE:**

A. The LIP will make a determination as to the most appropriate setting to serve a patient's needs while on the campus of the MSH.

B. The LIP will utilize, as appropriate, the clinical team, review boards, and/or administrative consultation, in ascertaining the most appropriate care setting for their patient.

C. The LIP will place or change placement of a patient, in the MSH continuum of care by writing one of the following orders:

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1. "Admission to ...; (Hospital/MSH MHGH)
2. "PPV ...; (Hospital/MSH MHGH)
3. "Transfer to ...; (Hospital/MSHMHGH or MSHMHGH/Hospital)
4. "Discharge to ...; (Hospital/MSH MHGH)
5. "Discharge from ...; (Hospital/MSH MHGH)

D. The LIP may order a Pre-Placement Visit (PPV) at a MSH Group Home if necessary to monitor the patient's adjustment to a less restricted setting. The LIP will determine the most appropriate length of time for such a visit and include the time in the order.

E. The attending LIP may include additional orders designed to help the patient adjust to the less restricted setting or designed to secure the necessary individualized care.

**VI. REFERENCES:** None

**VII. COLLABORATED WITH:** Hospital Administrator, Medical Director, Director of Clinical Services, Director of Quality Improvement, Forensic Psychiatrist, and Program Manager for the Montana State Hospital Mental Health Group Homes.

**VIII. RESCISSIONS:** #TCU-01, *Continuum of Care Orders* dated November 20, 2013; #TCU-01, *Continuum of Care Orders* dated January 31, 2012; #TCU-01, *Continuum of Care Orders* dated January 28, 2009; #TCU-01, *Continuum of Care Orders* dated January 18, 2006; #TCU-01, *Continuum of Care Orders* dated January 10, 2003; Policy #TCU-01-99-N, *Continuum of Care Orders* dated May 1, 1999.

**IX. DISTRIBUTION:** MSH MHGH Policy and Procedure Manuals.

**X. ANNUAL REVIEW AND AUTHORIZATION:** This policy is subject to annual review and authorization for use by either the Administrator or the Medical Director with written documentation of the review per ARM § 37-106-330.

**XI. FOLLOW-UP RESPONSIBILITY:** Program Manager of the Montana State Hospital Mental Health Group Homes.

**XII. ATTACHMENTS:** None

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John W. Glueckert                      Date  
Hospital Administrator

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Thomas Gray, MD                      Date  
Medical Director